

## **ECHO 2015 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Minutes 12-6-12**

Present: Co-Chair Doug Forsyth and members April Doshier Jennifer Newell, Debra Krittenbrink. Also present were staff Linda Price and Lisa Krieg. Two guests were present: Karen Canavan, Executive Director of the Norman Housing Authority and Vera Featherstone, an intern working at Food and Shelter.

Excused: Members Teresa Capps, Bob Staples, and Council Member Chad Williams.

Absent: Members Ginny Corson, Helen Kutz, Ann Wey, Travis Humphrey

The meeting was called to order by Doug Forsyth at 4:05 p.m.

### **DISCUSSION ABOUT CENTRAL INTAKE SYSTEM**

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is mandating that every Continuum of Care create a central intake system for homeless activities. HUD intends to require each Continuum of Care to develop and implement a centralized or coordinated assessment system in its geographic area. Such a system must be designed locally in response to local needs and conditions. HUD also plans to require each Continuum of Care to develop a specific policy on how its particular system will address the needs of individuals and families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, but who are seeking shelter or services from non-victim service providers.

To receive federal homeless funds, an agency must be a part of such a system. Food & Shelter (FS), East Main Place (EMP), the Women's Resource Center (WRC), Bridges, The Salvation Army (TSA), Central Oklahoma Community Action Agencies (COCAA), and Thunderbird Clubhouse (TC) are partner agencies in this new program that will be called Central System for Intake (CSI). The agencies are working in coordination with Lisa Krieg with the City of Norman and the United Way to develop the system. The structure is being set up using the structure that FS has been using for the Homeless prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) Program.

Food and Shelter will be the one number to call for rent and utilities. An intake form will be filled out and a determination made on which agency to send the applicant. There is a 3-tier system with FS, COCAA and TSA in tier one because they have the most resources available. Tier 2 includes the other agencies, and tier 3 is the faith based organizations.

A flow chart of the system was provided and is attached.

### **UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS**

#### **EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) [FORMERLY EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT]**

New rules mandate significant changes.

A short review and discussion of the 2012 ESG applications noted that the following awards have been made: Food & Shelter (\$50,000), East Main Place (\$100,000),

Thunderbird Clubhouse (\$100,000), The Salvation Army (\$100,000), and the Women's Resource Center (\$100,000). COCAA also submitted an application, but was not funded. ESG contract dates were to be October 1<sup>st</sup>, but no contracts have been received yet.

### Continuum of Care

The Continuum of Care rules have been published with major changes in all aspects of the grant. Cleveland County has eight renewing grants this year: Food and Shelter has four renewing; East Main Place, Progressive Independence, COCAA, and Hope Community Services each have one renewing. From now on, there will be annual renewals of all grants. Food and Shelter also plans to submit a new application this year for a new housing program. All applications are due to the City by December 18, 2012 and must be submitted to HUD by January 18, 2013.

### **POINT-IN-TIME COUNT OF THE HOMELESS FOR 2013**

The point-in-time count will take place on January 24, 2013 from midnight to midnight. That is the same day that Oklahoma City will hold their count. The focus this year will be on the street homeless using a new model. Shelter counts are easier and the agencies already do a good job of providing the information.

### **DISCUSSION ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Concern over the loss of affordable housing in Norman is growing. Several of the older complexes that have been affordable have started remodeling and upgrading their units, and then raising the rents, and no new affordable units are being built. Food & Shelter and the City of Norman have started doing research on methods other locations are using to provide affordable housing. The housing trust fund concept was noted as one of those methods. The Committee decided that the Norman Oklahoma Affordable Housing group (NOAH) should reconvene to pursue this issue. A meeting will be scheduled for January 2013 with the Norman Housing Authority taking the lead.

### **MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

Miscellaneous discussion centered on the difficulty of dealing with the street homeless. Food & Shelter is servicing 180 – 200 people every day for meals, and the shelter is full every evening (25 cots). It was noted that a lot of the new, younger homeless are causing problems because they are drug (particularly meth) and alcohol users, and won't follow any rules. Jennifer Newell commented that the police are making more arrests in regard to that group as well.

The next quarterly meeting will be at 4:00 p.m. on March 7, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.